

March 30, 1961

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Admiral Richard L. Connelly, USN (Ret.)  
President, Long Island University  
P. O. Box 247  
Greenvale, L. I., N. Y.

Dear Admiral:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 10,  
inviting me to deliver the Commencement Address on June 17,  
and to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Much as I am genuinely honored by your invitation, I have  
a previous engagement of long standing on that date, and, therefore,  
am very sorry that I will be unable to participate in your Commencement  
exercises. I am most appreciative indeed of your wish to honor  
me with the degree of Doctor of Laws and it is with the utmost regret  
that I find that I am unable to be present on this occasion to accept  
this high distinction.

With kindest regards,

Faithfully yours,

Allen Dulles

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

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O/DCI/ [redacted] bak(30Mar61)  
Rewritten AWD:at  
Orig - Addressee  
1 cc - DCI  
1 cc - Col. Grogan  
1 cc - FMC  
✓ 1 cc - ER w/basic

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C. W. POST COLLEGE  
OF  
LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY  
NORTHERN BOULEVARD  
BROOKVILLE, LONG ISLAND

THE PRESIDENT

P. O. BOX 247  
GREENVALE, L.I., N.Y.

March 10, 1961

*Dear Allen,*

It gives me considerable pleasure to invite you to deliver the Commencement Address at C. W. Post College on Saturday morning, June 17, 1961, at 10:00 o'clock. At the same time, with the authority of the Trustees of Long Island University, I shall look forward to conferring on you the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

As one long acquainted with the North Shore of Long Island you will, I know, be rightly proud of the splendid liberal arts and sciences college we have here developed. The two hundred young men and young women of the Class of 1961 have had a splendid opportunity here to grasp the understanding of responsible citizenship. It will mean a great deal to them, as it will to me, to have you address them on this occasion. It will further mean much to all of us here, through the bestowal of the honorary degree, to give appropriate recognition to one who so effectively epitomizes the responsible citizen.

I look forward to hearing from you, and hopefully to your acceptance of this invitation.

*Very truly yours,*

*Connelly*

RICHARD L. CONOLLY  
Admiral, U. S. N. (Ret.)  
President, Long Island University

Mr. Allen W. Dulles  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
2430 E Street  
Washington 25, D. C.

24 March 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

1. RECOMMEND that you decline this speaking invitation from Admiral (C. W. Post College) Richard Conolly for the commencement address at one of the colleges/of the Long Island University, which he now heads.
2. I believe that you have already declined one other commencement address this year -- from Huron College in South Dakota. The present invitation would seem to be somewhat comparable. Incidentally, in checking back over the history of your public appearances as DCI, I find that you have given no commencement-time address since 1955, when you spoke at Columbia and received an honorary degree there.
3. As to the honorary degree, I would suggest that you consider it, if you can feasibly separate it from the address in your conversation with Admiral Conolly. You have already agreed to accept a similar honor from the Boston College, and Long Island would seem to be a fine companion in your "armor of honors" in the academic world.

STAT

Acting ~~Assistant to the Director~~

cc: DDCI